



CANYON FERRY RESERVOIR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

A Century of
Water for the West
1902-2002

Second Public Draft Canyon Ferry Reservoir RMP/EA is available

Reclamation is distributing the Second Public Draft Canyon Ferry Reservoir Resource Management Plan/Environmental Assessment (RMP/EA) for public review and comment. Informal open houses will be held early in the comment period and formal public hearings will be held near the end of the 90-day comment period.

Changes in the Second Public Draft RMP/EA, Volume I, include:

- Competitively reissuing all existing commercial services contracts (marinas) when they expire according to Reclamation policy
- Removing any reference to seeking one concessionaire to manage commercial services at Canyon Ferry Reservoir
- Updating information, as appropriate, from the first public Draft RMP/EA
- Acknowledging the US Coast Guard Auxiliary boater safety activities
- Recommending the establishment of a working group to discuss problems and provide input about improvements at Canyon Ferry Reservoir
- Removing analysis of Jo Bonner Campground for conversion to day use only
- Providing additional staff at Canyon Ferry Reservoir to manage recreation and land issues
- Revising the document to reflect Reclamation's role in managing recreation and land issues
- Recommending completion of two broad-based user surveys to provide facility use data to assist in making decisions

Changes to the first public draft RMP/EA were based on comments received by February 17, 2001, the end

of the comment period. Reclamation staff prepared a response to each comment received. The comments and responses are presented in Volume II of the Second Public Draft Canyon Ferry Reservoir RMP/EA.

Submit comments on the Second Public Draft RMP/EA

You can submit comments in one of four ways:

Written comments can be mailed to
Bureau of Reclamation, D-8580/S.Black
PO Box 25007
Denver CO 80225-0007

or sent electronically to
cfrmp@do.usbr.gov

or sent by fax to
303/445-6780

Oral comments can be presented at formal public hearings to be held on July 30 in Townsend and August 1 in Helena.

All comments are due to Reclamation by August 5, 2002.

Reclamation's practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from public disclosure, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There may be other circumstances in which we would withhold a respondent's identity from public disclosure, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses available for public disclosure in their entirety. We also will make public all submissions from individuals identifying themselves as representing an organization or business.

Open Houses are scheduled

May 14, 2002 5:00 - 8:00 pm
Holiday Inn (Gallatin Room)
5 Baxter Lane
Bozeman, MT 59715 406-587-4561

May 16, 2002 5:00 - 8:00 pm
Colonial Hotel (Ballroom)
2301 Colonial Drive
Helena, MT 59601 406-443-2100

May 21, 2002 5:00 - 8:00 pm
Townsend High School (Community Room)
201 N. Spruce
Townsend, MT 59644 406-266-3455

May 23, 2002 5:00 - 8:00 pm
Red Lion Hotel (Big Sky Room)
2600 Cornell Street
Butte, MT 59701 406-494-7800

The informal open houses will provide stations where people can see:

- a display of changes to the RMP
- the RMP/EA process
- maps, photographs, and other information about the Resource Management Plan

During the open houses, Reclamation representatives will provide information and answer individual questions. No formal presentation and no formal question and answer period will occur.

Formal public hearings are scheduled

July 30, 2002 5:00 - 7:30 pm
Townsend High School (Community Room)
201 N Spruce
Townsend, MT 59644 406-266-3455

August 1, 2002 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Colonial Hotel (Ballroom)
2301 Colonial Drive
Helena, MT 59601 406-443-2100

The meeting place will open at 5:00 pm. The hearings will begin at 5:30 pm. Individuals may sign up to present comments until 7:00 pm. The hearing will conclude at 7:30 pm unless those who signed up by 7:00 pm have not been heard.

Oral comments on the Second Public Draft RMP/EA will be accepted at two public hearings. Requests to make oral comments may be made at each hearing; only those people who sign up may present testimony. All oral comments will be recorded verbatim and transcribed by a court reporter for inclusion in the hearing record. Speakers will be called in the order of their requests. In the interest of time, each speaker will be allowed three (3) minutes. If time at the public hearing allows, individuals wanting more time may be granted additional time after all other persons have been heard. Longer comments should be summarized at the public hearing and submitted in writing at the hearing or identified as hearing comments and sent to Reclamation. Such comments must be received **no later than August 5, 2002** (the end of the public comment period). These public hearings comments may be submitted in addition to written review comments made during the 90-day review period.

The formal public hearings are to provide the public the opportunity to present their oral comments. No question and answer session will be held. Anyone wishing to present oral testimony at the hearing will need to sign up at the door and provide a complete address. A hearing officer (who conducts the hearing), a timekeeper, and a court reporter will be seated in front of the room.

The hearing officer will open the hearing with a prepared statement, then call speakers in the order in which they signed up to present their testimony. Speakers are encouraged to provide a written copy of their testimony to the court reporter to ensure accurate records. Speakers will be asked to state their name and address. The timekeeper will signal the speaker when one minute is left, and time will be called when the remaining minute has expired. The speaker will be allowed to finish the sentence in progress. The hearing officer will not answer questions because the hearing is just to gather comments, not to discuss the RMP/EA.

Facilities are accessible

The open houses and public hearings will be held in facilities meeting the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you require special accommodations to attend, participate in, or understand the meeting, please contact Paul Backlund at (406) 475-3310 at least 10 days before the scheduled date of the open house or public hearing.

Hints to prepare comments

All comments will be considered. You need only to submit identical comments in one form. In other words, if you submit written comments, which are encouraged, you do not need to provide the same comments in oral testimony. If you provide oral testimony at the hearing, you do not need to provide identical written comments, although you are encouraged to provide a copy of your oral comments to the court reporter at the time of your testimony. If you mail your comments, please do not send identical comments via e-mail or fax, too. One form—mail, e-mail, or fax—is sufficient.

Comments should be as specific as possible—please identify page numbers of the document where the topic is discussed.

Comments are important

All written review comments and public hearing comments submitted by the end of the comment period, **August 5, 2002**, will be considered by Reclamation in preparing the Final RMP/EA. All comments received will be summarized, and appropriate responses will be prepared. Individual responses to comments will not be prepared.

The next step—Final RMP/EA

The Second Public Draft RMP/EA will be revised based on the comments received. A Final RMP/EA will be prepared along with the appropriate environmental documentation. It is expected that the final RMP/EA will be issued in early 2003.

Planning process review

1. Conduct public scoping
2. Develop planning criteria
3. Inventory data and collect information
4. Formulate alternatives
5. Evaluate alternatives
6. Select a Draft Preferred Alternative
7. Evaluate Draft RMP/EA **7 WE ARE HERE**
8. Prepare Final RMP/EA and FONSI
9. Implement RMP/EA actions
10. Monitor and evaluate actions

Copies are available

Copies of the Second Public Draft RMP/EA in its entirety are available in two formats—CD-ROM (with built-in reader) or paper copy. In addition, copies of only the Executive Summary of the Second Public Draft RMP/EA are available. Requests for copies can be made by phone to 1-800-822-7357, by e-mail to cfrmp@do.usbr.gov, or by fax to (303) 445-6780. In your request, please be sure to specify the format you would like.

For more information

For additional information, please contact:

Kim McCartney at kmccartney@gp.usbr.gov, or at (406) 247-7306, or at the Montana Area Office, P.O. Box 30137, Billings, MT 59107-0137

Tom Sawatzke at tsawatzke@gp.usbr.gov, or at (406) 247-7314, or at the Montana Area Office, P.O. Box 30137, Billings, MT 59107-0137

Paul Backlund at pbacklund@gp.usbr.gov, or at (406) 475-3310 ext. 303, or at Canyon Ferry Field Office, P.O. Box 7661 Canyon Ferry Road, Helena, MT 59601